

**INSIDE:
2005 OGSA/CGSA
JOINT CONFERENCE
INFORMATION**

August 2004

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Presidents' Day 2004 at Westmount Golf & Country Club

Spring Field Day at The Cutten Club

Flooding at Kawartha Golf & Country Club

OGSA Research Project on Nematodes

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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Westmount Golf & Country Club

Photo by Cory Janzen

*OGSA is committed to
serving its members,
advancing their profession,
and
enriching the quality
of golf
and its environment.*

President's message

I hope at this year's OTRF tournament, at the beautiful Burlington Golf Club, that you all took advantage of the opportunity to meet Dr. Eric Lyons. For any that missed the chance, let me assure you that you are going to enjoy what this guy brings to the table. Eric is the newly hired turfgrass educator and researcher at the University of Guelph. It goes without saying that Eric is passionate about turf, but what really impresses me is his passion for golf. How can you not like a guy that can talk turf while teaching you how to improve your swing?

As Dr. Lyons adjusts to his new surroundings and responsibilities, OGSA will do everything it can to support him in his new role. We also want Dr. Lyons to become a familiar face, so when his schedule allows, we have offered a standing invitation for him to attend as many OGSA events as possible. Dr. Lyons, we welcome you to Ontario. Good luck!

Two years ago, OGSA board member, Chris Andrejicka of Essex Golf and Country Club, gave life to a Superintendent Recognition Program. Chris felt strongly that superintendents should be formally recognized for their efforts in preparing their courses for major Golf Association of Ontario (GAO) events. The program is simple. An OGSA board member, arrives at the host club in his director's uniform (jacket and tie) and at the closing ceremonies of the event is provided the opportunity to take the microphone and publicly acknowledge the efforts of the host golf course superintendent. Surprisingly, some superintendents are not that comfortable stepping out into the limelight to receive this recognition. If you fall into this category, don't be shy. I promise that you will feel great pride in personal accomplishment when you walk up to accept the award. Your participation will also reinforce to those watching, the great significance of your chosen profession to the game of golf. Let the spotlight shine, you and your profession deserve it!

See you at the McClumpha and good luck in your fall projects.



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by Rob Ackermann
Weston Golf &
Country Club



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Green is Beautiful 2004

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Editor's message



by John Bladon
Nu-Gro Corporation

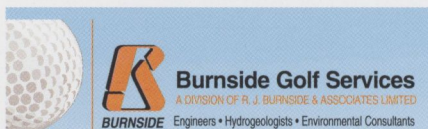
I continue to see superintendents use innovative ways of communicating with members and golfers. On a recent trip to Craigowan in

Woodstock, OGSA member Jerry Richard showed me his ever improving website he uses to communicate with membership. Members are actually invited to see progress of projects on the golf course as well as scheduling of maintenance activities. It gave me pause for thought...are we each doing the best we can to communicate with others about the work we do?

In this edition of *Green is Beautiful* we have Pam Charbonneau's regular submission "From roots to shoots", encompassing some background information on Silvery Thread Moss Control. Also, an update from Julie Dionne, now with the RCGA, on the OGSA research project, Entomopathogenic nematodes as a pest management tool. Angelo Capannelli has penned this issue's "Member Profile" of long time OGSA member OJ Piccolo of St. Catharines Golf Club. Finally, we recognize the passing of researcher, Dr. George Hamilton. Dr. Hamilton, his unique perspective and his love of turfgrass will be missed.

Remember, *Green is Beautiful*, Photo and Article of the Year candidates are always welcomed. Find something to write about and send it to us!

A final reminder...Dr. Eric Lyons has arrived in Canada and taken up his post at the University of Guelph. If you get the opportunity, welcome Eric to Canada.



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From roots to shoots

Silvery Thread Moss Control



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass
Specialist

Silvery thread moss has been a problem on putting greens in British Columbia for the past 10-12 years. It has now also become a major problem on putting greens in Ontario. Current golf green cultural practices such as low mowing heights, low nitrogen fertility rates, sand topdressing and loss of mercury based fungicides can be attributed to the increase in moss problems. Moss often starts on high areas

of a golf green that are more susceptible to scalping and drying out. From these areas it can spread aggressively through mowing and core aeration to other weakened areas of a golf green. It is a highly adapted plant that grows equally well in wet, shady environments as well as hot dry areas in full sun.

Research conducted in British Columbia has shown success with a copper hydroxide product called Kocide. The newest formulation of Kocide is Kocide 2000 which is a water dispersible granule. Kocide 2000 is registered for use in Canada on peppers and tomatoes. Because it is registered for use on other crops in Canada it qualified for a User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion Program (URMULE) under the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. This program allows for user groups or provincial government personnel to apply to have the label expanded for new crops such as turf providing that there is efficacy data available to show that the product works and providing the pesticide company is willing to add the new crop and new use to the label. The Western Canada Turfgrass Association along with the British Columbia Ministry of Food and Fisheries have

submitted the application for Kocide 2000 for moss control on turf in the spring of 2004. It has not yet received approval for use from the PMRA.

The data from British Columbia suggests that Kocide 2000 be applied at a rate of 210g/100m² from December through April at two week intervals for a total of 5 applications. This timing of course would not work for putting greens in Ontario that are covered with snow for most of December through April. Last fall a moss trial was started on a cooperating local golf course and the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Based on data from Cornell, that indicated that they had the most success when copper hydroxide was applied in the fall, we decided to conduct our Kocide 2000 moss trials in the fall. Applications began late (October 23) because we did not receive the product until then. Because of poor weather conditions in the fall (an early snow fall) only two applications of Kocide 2000 and Kocide 101 were applied at two week intervals. Moss ratings were done in the spring because the early snow fall meant that the plots couldn't be rated in the fall. The results are very preliminary and are reported below in Table 1. Moss control at the golf course site ranged from 88-95% with Kocide 101 and Kocide 2000 respectively. At the Guelph Turfgrass Institute the product was less effective with moss control ranging from 55-61% with Kocide 101 and Kocide 2000 respectively. Over the winter however, the control plots also had as much as 80% less moss in the spring as they did the following fall at the golf course site. At the GTI site the control plots did not have any reduction in moss over the winter months. These results, as mentioned above, are very preliminary. It is only one years worth of data and the product was only applied 2 times instead of the suggested five applications.

Preliminary Moss Control Results Using Kocide

Product	Location	% moss control
Kocide 101	<i>Golf Course</i>	95%
Kocide 101	<i>Guelph Turfgrass Institute</i>	55%
Kocide 2000	<i>Golf Course</i>	88%
Kocide 2000	<i>Guelph Turfgrass Institute</i>	61%



This fall, starting in mid-September, Kocide 2000 trials will begin again with an attempt to apply Kocide at two week intervals for a total of five treatments. This research will be conducted at The Guelph Turfgrass Institute and hopefully will give us some indication of what the correct timing will be for Kocide for moss control on putting greens in Ontario.

Health & safety

Confined Spaces

by Doug Johnson,
SAFETAID and Health and Safety Consulting
First Aid and Safety Supplies and WHMIS Training

If have you got a confined space at your club? Do you know how to identify a confined space? Are you aware of the requirements for entering a confined space? These are questions that you should be able to answer.

In this short article I cannot get into all the requirements of confined space identification or entry but here are a few issues that you should consider.

Generally speaking, a confined space is an enclosed or partially enclosed space that:

- Is not primarily designed or intended for human occupancy
- Has a restricted entrance or exit by way of location, size or means
- Can represent a risk for the health and safety of anyone who enters, due to one or more of the following factors:
 - Its design, construction, location or atmosphere
 - The materials or substances in it
 - Work activities being carried out in it, or the
 - Mechanical, process and safety hazards present

A confined space is defined in Regulation 851 as "a space in which, because of its construction, location, contents or work activity therein, the accumulation of a hazardous gas, vapour, dust, fume or the creation of an oxygen-deficient atmosphere may occur".

This means that your workers may be exposed to hazards such as poor air quality, chemical exposure, fire hazards, biological hazards, electric shock and noise to name a few.

To assist you in identifying potential confined spaces at your facility here are some examples: manholes, tunnels and wells, pump houses, pits, sub cellars or open trenches.

If you identify a confined space at your facility then it is imperative, and it is the law, that you ensure that there is a defined written and communicated Confined Space Entry procedure for the specific types of confined spaces

identified at your facility.

This means that each time that you enter the confined space you will be required to follow very specific rules. These rules will include an amount of paperwork that must be available and retained for specific periods of time. You must ensure that those involved with the entry are properly trained to complete the entry in a safe manner. This means ensuring that the person entering (the entrant) and the person attending at the entry point (the attendant) are trained in the air testing procedure, the entrant and site condition monitoring procedure, and in the rescue or recovery procedures.

When monitoring the air the entrant and the attendant must ensure that the oxygen content is within safe limits - not too little and not too much, that a hazardous atmosphere (toxic gases, flammable atmosphere) is not present and that all ventilation equipment is operating properly.

Air quality may have to be maintained through the use of ventilation equipment such as fans.

You must ensure that energy sources are controlled through the use of proper lockout procedures and you must ensure that they are communicated, understood and followed.

An incident in a confined space is often fatal. **DO NOT TAKE THIS CHANCE.**

*Excerpts from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety publication on Confined Spaces.
www.ccohs.ca

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Cyber super



by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

Every fall, the Editorial Committee for *Green is Beautiful* meets at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute to discuss the year in review, new articles for the next season, welcome new committee members and thank old ones. In this annual event, there is also the brainstorming session, one in which the brain trust of the OGSA puts its collective heads together and

dreams up ways in which our official publication can be improved. (Note: *Green is Beautiful* has won GCSAA's most-improved publication). January 2001 was to be a different year for me however. During this brainstorming session, someone (or some people) decided that it was time to provide our readers with a "website-of-the-month" column. As I appeared to be the most "tech-savvy" person in the meeting that day, the burden fell on me. My fate was sealed, I would, from then on, be known as the *Cyber Super*. Forget about Mark, "the guy with fast greens," or Mark, "the assistant at Markland Wood." THANK YOU ANGELO CAPANNELLI!

The challenge in writing *Cyber Super* has never been finding appropriate sites to write about. The challenge was to keep the recommendations simple enough for all computer literacy levels and keep them relevant to the

turf industry. Almost all of the sites provided were homepages only, rather than specific links, and only recently have there been specific companies recommended. Over the years of doing *Cyber Super*, I have had the opportunity to visit some great websites, and some poor websites. At association tournaments, I always get people asking, "What are your favourite sites to visit?" So here are a couple of websites I've enjoyed visiting.

Probably the website I visit most often is www.pgatour.com, the real time scoring and statistics section is second to none. If you are running a golf pool, there is not a better way to get the score. The next site I visit is Environment Canada at http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/forecast/city_e.html?yyz. It provides not only forecast information, which are pretty accurate for Markland Wood, as we are located close to Pearson airport. It also offers great information packets which educate the user in weather. After visiting the entire website, thus earning one's black-belt in weather forecasting, one can then begin to extrapolate the plethora of data and form one's own forecast.

One last site (this is just actually a short read but noteworthy) is <http://pested.unl.edu/thelabel/tlmay94.htm>. This is just a discussion on pesticides that is worth a read. More favourites next issue!

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OGSA Research Project:

Entomopathogenic nematodes as a pest management tool against insect pests on golf courses

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A two-year (2003-2004) research project on the use of entomopathogenic nematodes to control turfgrass insect pests on golf courses is now in progress. The study is conducted with the collaboration of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association (OGSA) at the Centre de recherche et de développement en horticulture of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Several golf courses across Ontario and Québec are participating in this project. Three major

objectives remain to be achieved: i-) evaluate the susceptibility index of the cutworm (*Agrotis ipsilon*) and the European crane fly (*Tipula paludosa*) to entomopathogenic nematodes under experimental conditions, ii-) determine the efficiency of entomopathogenic nematodes to control these insect pests on golf courses, iii-) and make an inventory of entomopathogenic nematodes naturally present on golf courses across Ontario and Québec (Table 1).

Table 1. Golf courses surveyed for entomopathogenic nematodes naturally present in 2003.

Golf courses in Ontario		Golf courses in Québec	
Galt Country Club	Cambridge	Club de golf du Bic	Bic
Blue Mountain Golf & CC	Collingwood	Golf Royal Charbourg	Charlesbourg
Taboo Golf Club	Gravenhurst	Club de golf de Chicoutimi	Chicoutimi
Big Bay Pointe Golf & CC	Innisfil	Whitlock Golf & CC	Hudson
The Briars Golf Club	Jackson's Point	Club de golf St-Raphaël	Ile Bizard
Westmount Golf & CC	Kitchener	Club de golf Islemere	Laval
Erie Shores Golf & CC	Leamington	Club de golf de Lévis	Lévis
Lakeview Golf Course	Mississauga	Club de golf Parcours du cerf	Longueuil
Niagara-on-the-lake Golf Course	Niagara-on-the-lake	Club de golf Louiseville	Louiseville
Peterborough Golf & CC	Peterborough	Hillsdale Golf & CC	Mirabel
Picton Golf & CC	Picton	Golf le Château Montebello	Montebello
Muskoka Lakes Golf & CC	Port Carling	Club de golf Piedmont	Piedmont
Jewel of the North Golf Resort	Redbridge	Club de golf Sherbrooke	Sherbrooke
Renfrew Golf Club	Renfrew	Club de golf de St-Hyacinthe	St-Hyacinthe
Diamondback Golf Club	Richmond Hill	Club de golf La Providence	St-Hyacinthe
St. Thomas Golf & CC	St-Thomas	Golf St-Janvier	St-Janvier
Rosedale Golf Club	Toronto	CC de Montréal	St-Lambert
Hunters Pointe Golf Course	Welland	Club de golf Montcalm	St-Liguori
Weston Golf & CC	Weston	Golf St-Michel	St-Michel

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Already some results!

Laboratory and field tests were first performed on cranefly larvae. This emerging turfgrass insect pest is widely spread on golf courses across Ontario and Québec. The virulence of four entomopathogenic nematode species (*Heterorhabditis marelatus*, *H. megidis*, *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *S. feltiae*) was tested against cranefly larvae (Table 2). Results show an interesting potential with the *S. feltiae* nematode, which has proven efficient against diptera larvae, an insect belonging to the same order as the cranefly.

Table 2. Virulence of nematodes against the European cranefly (*Tipula paludosa*)

Nématodes	European Cranefly ^a	
	LC ₅₀ ^b	IJs/ha ^c
<i>Heterorhabditis megidis</i>	562 b	4,47
<i>Heterorhabditis marelatus</i>	763 b	6,07
<i>Steinernema carpocapsae</i>	3584 c	28,51
<i>Steinernema feltiae</i>	153 a	1,22

a: fourth instar larvae; b: lethal concentration to kill 50% of population, CL50 with the same letter are not significantly different based upon their confidence intervals 95%; c: Amount (billion) of entomopathogenic nematodes (IJs) to apply per hectare based on the CL50 value.

In addition, the inventory made across golf courses across Ontario and Québec in summer 2003 has allowed us to identify native entomopathogenic nematode species. We thus discovered nematode species and strains with greater virulence than the one actually available on the market and better suited to environmental conditions prevailing on our golf courses.

What's next?

This summer, nematodes will be applied on golf courses as part of a management program against two turfgrass insect pests: the cutworm and the cranefly. In addition, laboratory tests will continue, namely to evaluate the potential of the new nematode strains identified on your golf courses in summer 2003. Results from this research project on the development of new integrated pest management tools will be released, as the project will be completed.

Acknowledgements

The authors are very grateful to Yvon Fournier and Nathalie Dauphinais M.Sc., and all participating golf course superintendents, for their technical support in the realization of this research project. This study was made possible through the financial support from the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



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Mechanic's corner

by Larry A. Murray, President G.E.T.A.O.
Equipment Manager, Pheasant Run Golf Course

The mechanic's tournament is being held at Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club on September 9, 2004. At the time of writing this article, the registration was filling up fast and the support from the courses and suppliers is very commendable. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank the O.G.S.A. for advertising the tournament and supporting the prize table. I will inform everyone of the winners in the next issue.

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the Government of Ontario has given our application for Apprenticeship for the trade of Turf Equipment Technician final approval. By simply contacting your local Apprenticeship Office, you will be able to register your

assistant as an apprentice. When you contact the office, tell them you are interested in Trade Code 421C and after an interview and a few forms you will be ready to go. If you would like to know more, contact one of the association board of directors and we will lead you in the right direction.

For information on the association and membership, please contact me.

Larry A. Murray President G.E.T.A.O.
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Spring Field Day

Article & Photos by Dorothy Hills

Sunny skies and warm hospitality greeted the 100 participants at the Cutten Club, in Guelph, Monday, June 21st., for the Spring Field Day. Our host, Richard Creed, and his staff had the course in fine form for this annual event. After fresh coffee and muffins, golf course pro, Sean Murphy, signaled the start of our day with a blast from the first tee, and the competition for the coveted Clayton Switzer Trophy was underway.

After a friendly competition on the course, members gathered to exchange golf stories over cocktails on the patio, followed by a buffet dinner in the Trophy Room.

While coffee and dessert were being served, Cathy Wright, of the Central Region Office, of the Ministry of Environment addressed the group and answered questions about Pesticide Posting Regulations. Cathy's full presentation will be printed in a future issue of *Green is Beautiful*.

We look forward to this event each year to take a moment to recognize our regular contributors to our magazine. John Bladon, Editor, introduced our attending contributors, encouraging them to take a well deserved bow.

Although everyone left a winner, the prizes went to:

Superintendents

1st Low Gross	Scott Gardner	70
2nd Low Gross	Dave Svab	77
3rd Low Gross	Chris Andrejicka	78

1st Low Net	Rhod Trainor	66
2nd Low Net	James White	68
3rd Low Net	Rob Ackermann	70

Closest to the Hole #17	Scott Gardner
Longest Drive #4	Mark Pickering

Straightest Drive #10	Sean Lavin
(any player)	

Assistants, Associates and Guest

1st Low Gross	Dave Schmelefske	72
2nd Low Gross	Kevin Holmes	73
3rd Low Gross	Jason Ireton	74

1st. Low Net	Ken Graham	65
2nd Low Net	Ken Cousineau	66
3rd Low Net	Tom Brain	67

Closest to the Hole #3	Tim Steen
Longest Drive #15	Brian Rosenberg

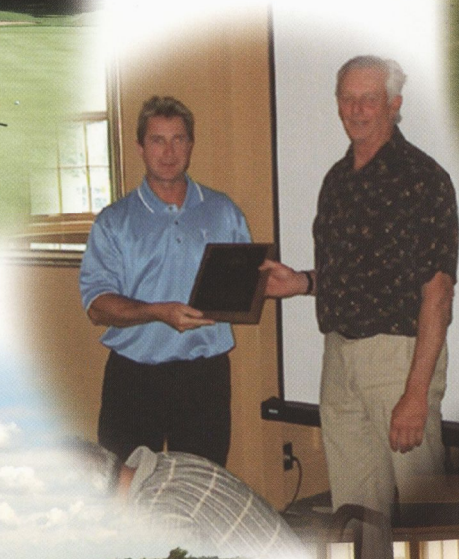
Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, reminded and encouraged us to attend the Annual GTI Research Field Day, held in August. Also, Dr. Eric Lyons plans to begin his work at the University of Guelph and the GTI early July, and is eager to meet and talk with as many OGSA members as possible.

Dr. Clayton Switzer presented the "Clayton Switzer Trophy" to Scott Gardner, Superintendent at Echo Valley Golf Club, who was 1st low gross winner with a 70. The remainder of the prizes were awarded and the day was deemed a success. Once again, our Associate members donated to the prize table. Our thanks to Vanden Bussche Irrigation, Master's Turf Supply, Universal Sand and Gravel, Plant Products, Bayer Environmental Science and Cliff's Tree Care Ltd., for your support.

Our thanks to Superintendent, Richard Creed and his greens staff; Sean Murphy, Head Golf Professional; all the Pro Shop Staff; Breanne Bayne, Clubhouse Manager, and all the catering staff; at the Cutten Club, for a superb day.



Clayton Switzer presenting the trophy to Scott Gardner, Superintendent at Echo Valley



Member profile

Interview with Onorino John Piccolo (OJ) Superintendent of St. Catharines Golf Course

by Angelo Capannelli, Hutcheson Sand and Mixes

OJ came to Canada on April 2nd, 1956 from Italy on the request of his older brother Vince, who was living in Hamilton, Ontario at the time. He landed in Halifax as a landed immigrant and very soon after that he found himself living with his brother in Hamilton. OJ was a qualified and apprenticed carpenter and was hoping to find work in this field, as his brother did. He had no formal education in the golf industry, but as luck had it, he found work on the greens of Burlington Golf & Country Club, in April of 1956. John's brother Vince was the assistant at Burlington when he was working there and John really followed in his footsteps, and never looked back.

By January 15, 1957, after being in Canada for less than 1 year, OJ was the Assistant Superintendent at Glendale Golf & Country Club, under the careful eye and scrutiny of Ray Cole. Ray went on to be the superintendent of Glendale for 15 years but OJ managed to move on.

In November 1962 (the interviewer was 1 month old) "John" was hired, by Jack Windsor to help build a golf course in Flamborough. Now it is Flamborough Hills Golf Club. They opened the first 9 holes in June of 1963 and the second nine was opened one month later. John recalls that they sodded the greens to Penncross and they had Merion Bluegrass on the tees. Fairways were untouched and basically just mowed hay fields.

On November 19, 1963 John started at the St. Catharines Golf & Curling Club, as the superintendent and ice maker. For the first 10 years he had these responsibilities as well as the swimming pool and overall maintenance of the clubhouse. "You had to do it all", recalls John. In those days he was

earning \$2.00 / hour but it felt like a lot less with all of the time he had to put in to look after all of these things. In comparison his staff members were earning \$1.35/ hour. Lorraine, his wife declared herself a grass widow but with four kids and a mortgage he had no inclination to complain.

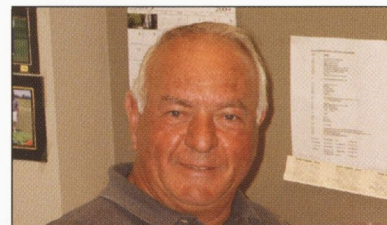
The first thing he would do every morning is arrive at work before everyone else to shout out duties for the day. This was back then. Now there is scheduling and computers to do all of these things for us.

OJ feels his greatest accomplishment is 41 years at the same club. In that time span there have been 4 golf pros, 16 general managers, 25 different board of directors and 22 greens chairmen. As well as the complete renovation of the golf course. It's the same piece of land, totally different golf course.

Over the years his biggest influence has been Lou Cole at Glendale Golf & Country Club, Nicol Thompson at St. Catharines Golf Course and Bill Glashan of Whirlpool Golf Club. With Billy it was the regular lunches that they would have to discuss their issues. Billy would rely on OJ for his practical approach to things and OJ would lean toward the technical expertise that Bill had developed from attending Penn State University. It's been a partnership/ friendship that has lasted 30 years.

When asked for some words to live by, he was quick to reply, "Troubles you leave are the troubles you will find", and "The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence".

John feels that it is extremely important to belong to an association. It is important to socialize with your peers and colleagues because problems are solved outside of the classroom. He has been an OGSA member



Onorino John Piccolo (OJ)

since 1963, a WOGSA member since 1957, a CGSA member since 1967 and a GCSAA member since 1970.

As a manager, to maintain a relationship with his staff and maximize productivity, OJ feels the following are key: hands on experience, lead by example, good communication and make sure your staff is aware of what is going on.

Fondest memory on the course? Almost drove over an old greens chairman and a significant other having a little fun in the middle of a fairway, while night watering. Let us say they were not standing up. Another fond memory along the same line....Turning a sprinkler on a young couple who were curled up in a sleeping bag on the 13th tee. With the 1 minute delays of systems of old there was time for John to turn on the sprinkler come out of the pumphouse and take his position to watch the couple run bare butt down the fairway leaving the safety of their sleeping bag behind.

To get his mind off of the course and work, he goes home to have a couple of beers and comes back to work a little calmer.

John has been married to Lorraine since April 20, 1963. They have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Their son, Dennis, is the assistant superintendent at St. Catharines, at present. Lorraine helped OJ in the earlier days writing reports, keeping records and making sure that the house remained stable and calm so that he could go to work and focus on work. It was tough on his wife with 4 children in 5 years.

When asked where he liked to travel on vacation, he responded, "Canada and the US are preferred". "A vacation is what you make; it's not where you go."

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite Major? **Masters**
- Best piece of turf equipment: **Light weight mowers on fairways**
- Favourite designer: **Stanley Thompson**
- Ultimate foursome: **Lee Trevino, Tiger Woods, John Daly (he likes to have fun)**
- Lowest round ever: **76 at Beechwood Golf Club, Niagara Falls, Ontario**
- Stanley Cup winner: **Buffalo Sabres ?????**
- Favourite movie: **The Godfather**
- Favourite meal: **ALL of them.**
- Favourite course played outside Canada: **Pebble Beach**
- What's in your CD player right now: **Country western music.**
- Rate your lawn on a scale of 1 – 10: **1 (worst) no water, big size lawn**
- What would you envision yourself doing if you weren't in the industry: **Self employed carpenter**

Golf course highlight

Westmount Golf & Country Club

50 Inverness Drive, Kitchener ON N2M 4Z9

Website: www.westmountgolf.com

Golf Course Superintendent: Cory Janzen



#5 from the 4th Green

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Region of Waterloo

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
Private, with 800 members

Typical number of rounds
~30,000 rounds per year

Typical opening and closing date
Mid April, close first Monday in November

How long have you been a superintendent?
5 years

List other accomplishments
BSc. (Agr.), OTRF Board of Directors 2000 to present

How long have you been an O.G.S.A. member?
10 years

How many staff?
6 year round and 17 seasonal staff

How many assistants and mechanics?
1st Assistant: Jeremy Krueger
Mechanics: Clint Smith and Dale Romahn

How many gardening staff?
1 full time: Brent Tremain plus part-time help.

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?
6,943 yards from the back tees and
5,472 yards from the front tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?
1 acre of tee area and 20 acres of range

How many bunkers?
53

How many times does water come into play?
2 ponds come into play once

Who was the original architect?
Stanley Thompson

What was the year of original construction?
1930

By whom and when was the course remodeled?
Robbie Robinson in late 1950's, Tom McBroom in the '80s and now Doug Carrick.

What major tournaments have been held there?

1957 Canadian Open, 1969 Canadian Amateur, 1978 CPGA Championship, 1990 LPGA DuMaurier Classic

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
10,000 square feet

What type of irrigation system?
Rainbird Cirrus 2 years old

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?
2.5 acres of greens
2 acres of tees
25 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?
Poa/Bent

How many USGA and loam greens?
2 UGSA and 17 Pushup

What is the predominant soil type?
Variable – peat, loam and clay

What equipment do you have in inventory?

12 Jacobsen PGM 22" walkers
2 Toro 1600 26" Walkers
6 Jacobsen GK IV Triplex Mowers
2 Jacobsen LF100 fairway units
2 Jacobsen 3400 fairway units
2 Ransomes AR250 Rough Mowers
1 Ransomes AR2500 Rough Mower
1 Ransomes 728 Outfront Rotary
1 Aerway slit tine aerator
1 Verti-Drain
1 Hydroject
4 Ryan Greensaire walker aerators
1 MC15 3-point hitch aerator
1 Charterhouse Rapidcore 3-point hitch aerator
1 Cushman core harvester
7 Cushman trucksters
2 Jac Hauler electric work carts
1 Cushman truckster with Turfco Widespin 1530 topdresser
1 Ty-Crop MH-400 topdresser
1 Kubota M4900 Tractor with cab & loader
1 Kubota L4200 Tractor with cab
1 Yanmar YFL 1575 Tractor and loader
2 hydraulic dump wagons with enclosures
1 Case 75XT skid steer with attachments
1 Vermeer wood chipper
1 Smithco Trap Rake
1 Cushman Spraytek DS 300 sprayer with Raven Controls
1 Toro 150 gl sprayer with Raven Controls

1 set of vibratory rollers for triplex
1 Smithco Sidewinder Tournament roller
1956 John Deere bulldozer
1 Foley spin/relief grinder
1 Foley bedknife grinder
2 three-point hitch leaf blowers
1 Vicon 3 point hitch fertilizer spreader with computer
1 Spyker Cushman mount electric fertilizer spreader
4 Stihl line trimmers
2 Flymo hover mowers
2 MTD pushmowers
1 Red Max reciprocating edger
1 Viking land leveler

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?
New irrigation system, pond and pumphouse, several new cart paths and tee decks, new aggregate storage area.

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?

Master plan with Doug Carrick which will include several rebuilt greens and tees, new bunkers, new practice facility, the addition of a 19th hole and several new cart paths.
Drainage master plan with Kelly-Ami to address issues on 11 holes.

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
Heavily shaded and poorly drained.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?
New irrigation system has dramatically improved the conditioning of the golf course. Foliar applied nutrient to greens and fairways have allowed for more consistency and controlled growth.

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform.

Started the monitoring of canopy temperatures under solid plastic covers all winter long to help determine mechanisms of winter kill and to aid in timing of cover removal.



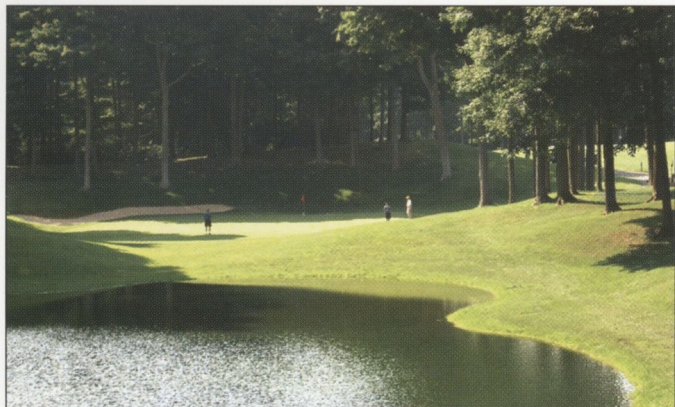
The 36th Annual Presidents' Day

Submitted by Jeff Alexander

Director of Golf & Events

Photos taken by Jennifer Pendrith

This year's Presidents' Day was hosted by Westmount Golf and Country Club, a 160-acre private course located in a prestigious area of Kitchener-Waterloo. This Stanley Thompson gem was started in 1929 and open for play in 1931. Westmount boasts a beautifully maintained championship level 18-hole golf course, which over the years has hosted numerous golf tournaments including: a Canadian Open, LPGA du Maurier and several Amateur events.



Hole #3

This day is the OGSA's most popular and prestigious event of the year. It is to promote camaraderie, meet new golf clubs and enjoy friendly competition between the respective golf club teams. It is also a day for the host golf club to showcase their club to all fellow Presidents, Greens Directors, Directors and Superintendents.



Hole #12



Hole #17 looking toward #4 green

Showcase they did! The Westmount staff should be congratulated for creating such a lovely day for all competitors. Cory Janzen, Golf Course Superintendent and his staff worked diligently to prepare for this event, despite uncertain weather leading up to the day. The golf course property was in magnificent condition and I can see why it is voted in the top 25 best courses in Canada. Well done!

After golf all teams enjoyed a wonderful 5-course meal in the main dining room. Thank you to Clubhouse Manager, Glenn Williams, Jennifer McDermott, Catering Coordinator and their food and beverage staff.

After dinner, the President of Westmont, Audrey Cook gave the official welcoming followed by a few words from OGSA President, Rob Ackermann.



Tee #4 from #3 approach

All scoring/pari-mutuels were tabulated and scores posted at the clubhouse. Thank you to Rob Strahan, Golf Professional and his staff for being so organized and a pleasure to work with.

Team Donalda Club successfully defended the William Sansom Trophy to win the 2004 Presidents' Day, firing a 131 using a four person team progressive net best ball. Congratulations Donalda.

Special thank you to Dorothy Hills and her staff at OGSA office for again making our events run so smoothly!

Also thank you to fellow OGSA Director Chris Andrejicka for his help in organizing the day and Paul Scenna for organizing the pari-mutuel table.

Hope everyone had a great day!



The winning Donalda Team with Cory Janzen and assistant Jeremy Krueger



Cory Janzen accepting Host Plaque from Jeff Alexander



Rob Ackerman, OGSA President



Hole #5



Audrey Cook, Westmount G&CC President

Congratulations to all our winners!

First Place Winning Team 2nd year in a row

Donalda Golf Club - score 131

Superintendent: Paul Scenna

Directors: Hart Sernick, Mike

O'Connell and Bryan Sparks

Second Place Winning Team

Credit Valley Golf Club - score 135

Superintendent: Jeff Stauffer

Directors: Bryan Coleman, John

McCann and Terry Garbutt

Third Place Winning Team

Westmount Golf & Country Club -
score 138R

Superintendent: Cory Janzen

Directors: Audrey Cook, Dave
Sandrock and Bob Fleischauer

Fourth Place Winning Team

Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club -
score 138R

Superintendent: Jim Flett

Directors: Geoff Browne, Peter Hand
and Bill Wight

Fifth Place Winning Team

Dalewood Golf & Curling Club -
Score 139

Superintendent: Trevor Clapperton
Directors: Bob Keller, Jim Pybus and
Richard Moore

Longest Drive #2 (Ladies)

Anita Hancock

Lowville Golf Club

Longest Drive #13 (Men)

Mike Garvey

Owen Sound

Closest to the Hole #3 (Team)

Mississauga Golf & Country Club
Chris Osbourne

Closest to the Hole #6 (Team)

Thornhill Golf & Country Club
David Bell

Closest to the Hole #12

Norma Straub
Thornhill Golf & Country Club

Closest to the Hole #17 (Men)

Warren Bamber
Beverly Golf & Country Club

Reflections of Summer

Photo taken by David DeCorso

Superintendent, Victoria Park Golf Club East • A possible candidate for the Green is Beautiful Photo of the Year competition.



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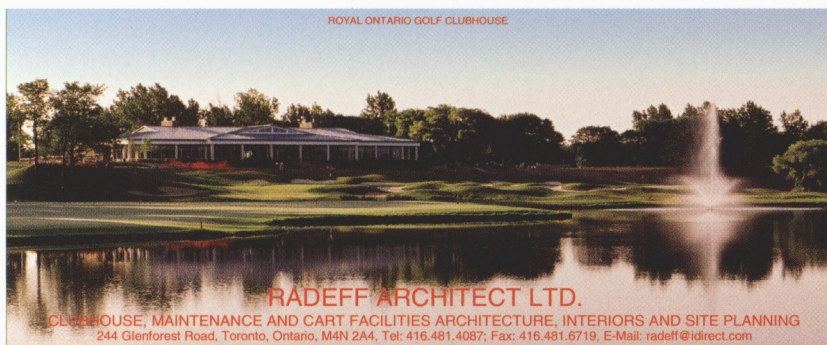
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. George W. Hamilton, Jr. passed away on Friday evening, July 9, 2004, after a year-long battle with cancer.

A memorial service was held , July 17, 2004, 3:00 pm, at the St. Paul's United Methodist Church in State College, PA.

George had been involved in Penn State's turfgrass program since 1982, serving successively as Research Technologist, Instructor, Senior Lecturer, and Assistant Professor. He received his B.S. degree in 1983, and completed his M.S. requirements and received his M.S. degree in 1990. In December of 2001, he completed his Ph.D. working in Turfgrass Stress Physiology. George was the technical advisor for the Two-Year Golf Course Turfgrass Management Technical Program and taught courses in cultural turfgrass management and golf course specifications, construction, and renovation. George's other responsibilities included coordinating the turfgrass research facilities, and serving as the advisor to the Penn State Turfgrass Club. He also conducted research in turfgrass management and developed new technologies for the turfgrass industry, including products such as PennMulch.

George's positive outlook, innovation, and commitment to students and the turfgrass industry will be greatly missed. He was a great man that did great things in a short period of time.



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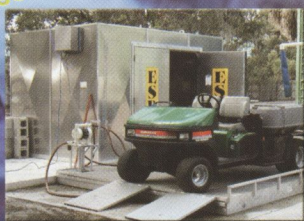
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Kawartha Golf Club... after the flood

Peterborough, Ontario

Photos by Jennifer Pendrith, Superintendent

Article to come in future issue.





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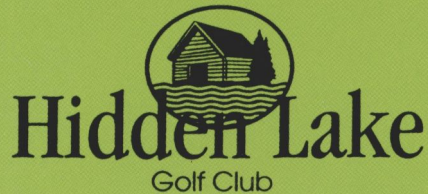
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June 11, 2004

Dear Ron,

We have been using your product for two years and have had no problems with the hydraulic system on any machine.

This spring on our first cut on the approach to number one green, a hydraulic line broke and fluid leaked all the way across the front of the green. We did not have the irrigation on at that time and so we filled the sprayer and used the hand hose to flush the area thoroughly. We were amazed that there was no hint a leak had occurred. It was amazing.

We highly recommend your hydraulic "oil" as a way to avoid hydraulic oil damage.

Sincerely,

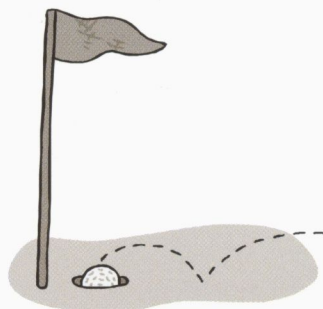
Robbie Robinson
Hidden Lake Golf Club Superintendent



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web site www.golfsupers.on.ca
as information becomes available.

On the road again

by Kevin Falls
Engage Agro Corporation

The daily checklist for a travelling turfgrass sales rep must only include the essentials because our cars become the all in one workplace on wheels. It's our personal and portable office, lunchroom, boardroom, supply cupboard, and teleconferencing centre all in one. We of course need our cellular phones, palm pilots, business card holders, water bottles and snacks for 9 and 2 (balancing carbs and protein) and last but not least our mileage logs with the pen attached. Without these essentials we are bound to be less efficient for the daily chores.

Now let's get real, all of these essentials actually aid us in scheduling appointments around our golf games. We use our cell phones to line up our next game; the palm pilot's role is to record the date of our next tee time and the water and snacks we bring are to keep us strong on the back nine. And let's not forget that mileage log with the pen attached - used of course to track the distance between our rounds - I mean appointments.

After finding homes for all the technical essentials of the job, golf clubs included, the back seat or extended cab must also act as a

reservoir for all of the 'stuff' that comes with our job. In our 7x5 foot mobile workspace we must cram this year's technical literature and promotional items in half broken cardboard boxes in and around our golf clubs. If we were smart we would combine our 3 half empty boxes of extra small golf shirts into one highly efficient system. We would catalogue and systematize these items better by simply installing a chest of drawers to aid us in our proficiency. Just think about it, our whole back seat could be converted into a walk in closet with room for all of our 'stuff'. Again, to be honest, just like our closets at home, there is always a breakdown in the system... when the doors are shut everything looks organized, but we all know that when you open the door it looks like a tornado hit. Promotional items and technical literature may take up a lot of room but they are far from being the most unorganized part of the back seat. At this point I offer the concept that for a sales rep any space other than where he or she steers the ship is fair game for temporary storage. How does a sales rep define temporary storage? May I suggest the following: **Temporary Storage** *adj.* n: 1. is any free space in a sales rep's

vehicle that can be used to collect garbage.

I find that the areas where passengers are supposed to place their feet are particularly good space for collecting old water bottles and fast food bags. In fact, I use this as a meter stick as to when I should clean my car out. We all know when the area behind the front seat becomes level with the back seat then that's a good indicator that it's time to pull over and clean out the car. We don't want anything to drag on our efficiency. So, sales reps, it's time to bring order to our workspace and install an airtight trash compactor in place of that sad mini plastic bag that overflows while swinging from the dashboard.

Let's get real travelling sales people, no one comes in at night to clean our office....we must take matters into our own hands and be proactive and creative in managing our office space. Let's think outside the box...as more and more professionals are upgrading their offices, so should we. We must continue and improve our office efficiency, so that we too can leave early for the day to play a round of golf.



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Plant Products 5th Annual Baseball Tournament

by Scott Horsburgh

The 5th annual Plant Products Baseball Tournament was held Saturday July 10th at Turner Park in Hamilton. Thirty-nine teams, spread out over twelve diamonds, provided several rounds of competitive and entertaining slow-pitch action.



The Champs with Kerry Whale

Round robin play began at 9 a.m., under promising sunny skies, and continued well into a humid evening. At the end of round robin play, sixteen teams advanced to single-game elimination matches. Qualifying for the semi-finals were St. George's Golf & Country Club, Willow Valley Golf Course, Toronto Golf Club, and Rosedale Golf Club. St George's prevailed over Willow Valley in a well-played contest. Rosedale emerged victorious over Toronto, the five-time defending champion. Despite

fatigue and the long day, both teams played their hearts out in the championship game, but it was Rosedale that hoisted the trophy after a 16 - 4 win.

Plant Products would like to thank its employees and volunteers who ensured the day ran smoothly. A big thank you goes to all of the tournament sponsors, without whom this day would not have been possible: Bayer Environmental, BASF, Engage Agro, Emerald Isle, Aquatrols, Lebanon, and Plant Science. Skyway Equipment provided golf carts, and Burlington Golf & Country Club contributed radios. Finally, a heartfelt thank you is extended to all the participants for their competitive play, camaraderie, and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to Rosedale, the 2004 champions!
Let's have as much fun next year!



Dave Dick

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What's new

Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Call for Nominations for 2004 2nd Annual "William Sansom" Distinguished Service Award

Deadline Friday, October 1, 2004

The nomination form can also be printed from our
web site: www.golfsupers.on.ca > Members Only >
Scholarships > William Sansom Award

Important Notice

OGSA Membership Invoices will be mailed out the first week in September, although they will be dated October 1st and the due date will be October 31, 2004. This will give you plenty of notice and time to get them into your club offices to ensure payment before the deadline date.

Our business is membership service. Our mandate is "To Provide Service Beyond Your Expectations". Help us to do this by paying your membership dues on time.

Please notify the office immediately if you have any changes at all to your membership profile (ie. club change, home address change, email, class change etc).

The Syngenta logo features the word "syngenta" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small green leaf icon is positioned above the letter 'g'.

OGSA joins Syngenta's GreenPartnersProgram

Syngenta is delighted to welcome OGSA as its newest association member in GreenPartners, a loyalty program that rewards golf superintendents with points for purchases of Syngenta Professional Golf Products. Golf Superintendents who are members of the GreenPartners program can now donate their points to the OGSA, for the good of the Association in helping to meet its critical needs. As an added benefit, donations from superintendents to the OGSA will be matched by Syngenta. If you are not currently a GreenPartners member, please log on to www.greenpartnersonline.ca to register. We hope that everyone will participate and find out how rewarding GreenPartners can be for all of us.



THE STORK HAS LANDED

This summer has been a busy time for some of our members, not only in the turf business but also in the diaper business. OGSA congratulations on the arrival of their new *bundle of joy* go out to:

Mark Prieur at Markland Wood Country Club
Phil Scully at Granite Golf Club
Doug Hubble at Nu-Gro Corporation

It looks like we'll have some new candidates for our Heritage award in a few years.

Reminder

All active AA, A, B and C class members must provide the OGSA office with an actual photo copy of their valid Ontario Pesticide Licence. If you have not already sent yours in, please do so asap or phone the office to explain why this cannot be done. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our records up-to-date.



TIRED OF OPENING MAIL?

Did you know that the OGSA can send out all information and notices to you by EMAIL? About half of our members receive info and updates sent straight to their 'inbox'. It's fast and includes some info that can only be sent out by email, such as some employment advertisements (due to time restrictions).

So don't miss out - call the office at toll free **1-877-824-6472** or email us at ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca and let us know that you want your information Sooner than Later.

If you require hard copies of some things, we can fax items to you on request.



by Daisy Moore

To Mulch or Not to Mulch

Mulching is what we do to mimic what happens on the forest floor where, over time, plant litter accumulates and gradually decays. This mixture of dead and dying organic material forms a soft cushion around plants and protects the roots from weather extremes. The benefits of this natural process are enormous, including; the conservation of soil moisture; the reduction of weeding; the moderation of soil temperatures; and, when organic mulch is used, the addition of organic matter. In woodland gardens, this process helps to make an ideal habitat for native woodland plants.

A natural soil profile, in our region, consists of a layer of mulch over a layer of topsoil over a layer of subsoil. As plants grow, the topsoil is used up but is then replenished by the decaying mulch. Mulch is continuously added through leaf litter.

In cultivated gardens, at home or in public spaces, we tend to eliminate the natural mulch layer in preference for a cultivated and tidy appearance: weeding and cultivating both remove green matter and disrupt the soil layer. We may then apply a "uniform" mulch to clarify the differences in our plants or to show them off. Sometimes this expands into an over use of mulch, where it looms larger than the living garden.

Mulch can come in many different forms. Popular products for mulching are shredded bark, evergreen needles, cocoa hulls, rotted manure, compost and stones. These are chosen mostly for their appearance. Bark mulch now comes in several colours and please tell me you don't like the red stuff! Baled Georgian Pine Straw is an excellent mulch for beneath evergreen trees. It looks natural and blends in well with the natural leaf and cone drop from the evergreens. Spring ephemerals, such as Trilliums, Daffodils and Trout lily, can poke through. On the golf course, pine straw gives you a decent lie.

Other effective, but not so pretty, materials for mulching are straw, sawdust, wood chips, and lawn clippings. These products are not fully decomposed; as they decompose they use up soil nitrogen. So, unless you add nitrogen when you use these products, they will rob the soil of nitrogen and plants will turn yellow.

A landscape fabric is sometimes placed beneath the

mulch to further prevent weed invasion. The fabric is made up of woven material that allows moisture, but not light, to pass through it. In areas where the mulch is stone and no growth is wanted, landscape fabric is a good idea. In every other case, however, fabric will prevent the spread of many perennials and defeat the purpose of the garden. Perennials that spread by underground rhizomes or tillers are not able to colonize until they can grow on soil that has collected above the fabric. Plants that rely on re-seeding themselves into soil will be short lived when growing under these conditions. Examples of colonizing perennials are Bee Balm, Daylilies, Artemesia, Primrose and Bell flower. Examples of desirable self seeding plants are Black eyed Susan, Foxglove, Calendula, Hollyhock and Lupins. All of these plants are useful work horses in the garden.

There has been a recent surge in the amount of mulch used in our landscapes. In many cases mulch is used as an alternative to a living ground cover: it's cheaper than plants and it keeps out weeds. It is now no longer a mulch but a static blanket of product. Make sure you like what you are looking at because it can become frightfully dull. In other cases mulch is used as a replacement for maintenance. New mulch is simply piled on each year, and then you wonder why the plants don't look so good, or wish you'd planted a few bulbs in there.

There was a mulch element in many of the projects I worked on this spring and early summer. Often, we removed heaps of the stuff by piling it elsewhere and digging it in to the soil. Gardens were being choked to death with the stuff. Too much mulch can be detrimental to plant growth. Mulch acidifies the soil and not all plants enjoy acidic conditions.

I like to use living mulch when I garden. This means that the soil surface is protected and shaded by plant life. Plants overlap and form a community rather than the "bad party" appearance of tidy individuals separated by a safe distance of mulch. I mulch my plants with compost in the spring, in preparation of the summer, and in the fall to protect plants through the winter. Mulch should rarely be seen, but work as support staff to produce a beautiful garden.

Visit my website www.daisymoore.com for more tips on gardening.

Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

Along with the rest of the Canadian golf world, I was glued to my TV set last weekend to see the most recent version of the Canadian golf course rankings. It was quite enjoyable to see how the panel ranked some of the truly great courses from all across this wide land of ours. Some of my favourites were on the list, some were not. Some were higher than I would have ranked them, some were lower. Some I have seen and played; some have put rules in place to keep me out. But overall, it's quite pleasant to spend a couple of hours pouring over the rankings, because my employment is not affected by the results. For many people, this ranking costs them bonuses, pay raises, or even their jobs. This is unbelievably stupid.

There is always a disclaimer at the beginning of the TV show, and an even longer one at the beginning of the article when they are published in the magazine – but like the health warnings on cigarettes, nobody pays attention. The disclaimer explains that it is a purely subjective list, that all these courses are truly magnificent, that half the judges were completely snapped by the sixth tee and so on. But I guarantee you, that at this exact second, there are a couple of board members standing on a tee somewhere, discussing the need to fire their Superintendent because they fell a few spots in the rankings.

I have stated many times that I object generally to judged events. Period. And this is just another fine example. There are lots of really cool things in this world that are fine entertainment if left alone; but no, some massively insecure wanker in desperate search of validation, always has to bring in a judge to tell them that they are the best. I would like to blame women. The need for judges in events that ought to just be spectacles, springs from the same insecurity that leads to the question, "Do I look fat in this dress?"

But men are just as guilty. Take mogul skiing. Around the end of the last ice age, some Neanderthal noticed that he could impress the softer, rounder Neanderthals by falling down a hill with style. A few flips, a couple of somersaults, land on your feet, and everybody hoots and claps. Along comes a few buddies, and everybody's having a ball until some idiot says, "Hey, who's flips are better, mine or his?" Ten thousand years later, it's a world wide sport with endorsement deals - *and judges*.

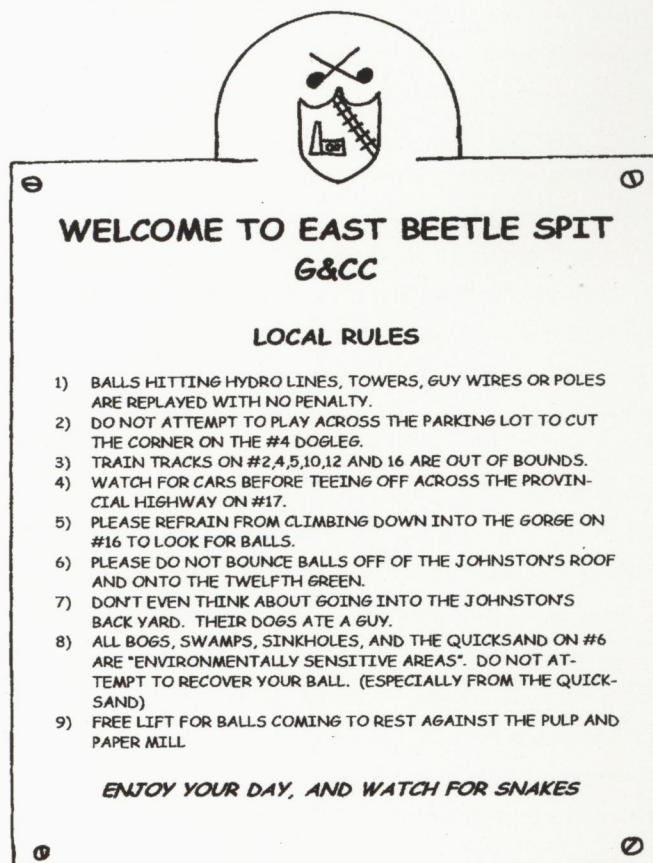
Think of all the things that are really cool as long as you don't get judges involved. Gymnastics is great as long as you call it tumbling. Bring in a judge, and the corruption and back biting begins. Why do we judge parallel bars, but not trapeze? Because there's no insecure losers on a trapeze, that's why!

If we do have to rank courses though, I think we need to open up a few more categories. Right now, there are only a few courses with the history, budget, and exposure to have a serious shot at making the list. So I say, let's start some new lists. How about, "Best course in a swamp", "Best course with hydro lines running through it" or, "Best course that used to

be twice the area before the cheap / greedy members sold off half the property for housing to keep their dues low?"

Now that I think about it, we should probably start a new category for the "Superintendent of the Year" award too. Instead of giving the award to a guy with twelve assistants, a spray tech, an irrigation tech, a horticulturist, a mechanic and a budget the size of the Gross National Product of a couple third world countries, let's give it to the poor superintendent who does all those jobs himself and still gets laid off every winter in order to keep the turf budget smaller than the Golf Pro's salary.

So people, take the rankings as they were intended to be. It was a couple of sports writers, over a couple of wobbly pops arguing about whose course was better. It just expanded into this massive industry where people are now having their career paths decided by a bunch of judges on a panel. If the ownership or membership of your course is taking the rankings any more seriously than the Stanley Cup predictions that are written by many of the same ink stained wretches, then send them to me and I'll give them a smack for not knowing how good they have it.



Looking back

20 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

In 1984 the board of directors of the OGSA were as follows: **Al Draper** (president), Greenhills; **Hugh Kirkpatrick** (vice), Westmount; **Rusty Warkman** (past pres.), Oshawa; **Bob Kennedy**, Garden City; **Barry Endicott** (newsletter editor), Chinguacousy; **Bill Fach**, Essex; **Gordon Nimmo**, Sarnia; **Scott Dodson**, Chedoke; **Thom Charters**, Islington; **Shorty Jenkins**, Bay of Quinte and **Gordon Witteveen**, Board of Trade. 1984 was the 60th anniversary of the OGSA and **Jackie Dermott** was office secretary.

New members: **John Schaller Jr.**, CFB Trenton (F); **David Plant**, St. George's (F); **Daniel Walton**, Seaton (F); **Greg O'Heron**, Board of Trade (F); **Terry Heatherington**, Hidden Lakes (F); **Dan McNeil**, Greenhills (F); **George Dzvirka**, Orchard View (B); **Carol Edwards**, Penryn Park (B); **Peter Horrill**, Southbrook (B); **Rick Serrao**, Glen Cedars (B); **James Teeter**, Wyldewood (F); **James Burlington**, Indian Creek (B); **Bill Neff**, Indian Creek (DD); **Nigel Rennie**, Unionville Fairways (A); **John Hughes**, Horseshoe Valley (A); **James Hosick**, North Bay (B); **Chris Galbraith**, Bayview Golf Centre (B); **Blair Smith**, Bancroft (A); **Peter Kuzmivh**, Trenton Heather (A); **Joe Kenny**, Oaklands (A); **Daniel Yake**, Pine Lake (F); **Kelly Barnett**, Baldoon (B); **Jed Mathews**, Royal Downs (B); **John Herman**, North Frontenac (B) and **Richard Butler**, Idylwyde (B).

Gordon Witteveen was the Score Magazine Award Winner as the 1984 Top Canadian Superintendent. **Dr. Clayton Switzer**, who was the former Dean of OAC, became Ontario's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food. **David Gourlay** moved from Ancaster as assistant to Toronto Ladies as superintendent. **Ed Doda** took the position at Barrie Golf Club and **Rick Serrao** moved to Glen Cedars from Markland Woods, where he was the assistant. Minimum wage was increased to \$4.00/hr.

The CGSA held their conference from March 11-14 at the Constellation Hotel in Toronto. **Dr. Clayton Switzer** was the keynote speaker. Other turf experts speaking were **Dr. James Beard** and **Dr. Richard Skogley**. There was a pre-conference golf tournament held at the Board of Trade Country Club on March 10th. The GCSAA Convention was held in Las Vegas. **Keith Nisbet** was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for his dedication and service to golf course superintendents and the profession. The Leo Feser Award was presented to **Gordon Witteveen** in recognition of the best superintendent written article in Golf Course Management magazine.

There was a Michigan and Borders Cities and OGSA joint meeting on April 25 at Beachgrove hosted by **Ron Heesen**. An OGSA meeting

was held at Sawmill Golf Club hosted by **George Julie**. The Galt Field Day was once again held at the Galt Country Club, hosted by **Paul Scenna**. **Al Draper** presented a cheque to **Paul Dermott**, president of the OTRF for \$1,000. **Neil Acton** was presented with a plaque for becoming a Certified Golf Superintendent of the GCSAA and **Rick Zeigel** was presented with a scholarship for the Turf Managers Short Course, presented by **Jack Webb**, president of the OGA. **Dean McEwen** presented the Clayton Switzer trophy to **Keith Nisbet** and **Bill Hynd** for their best net aggregates. Other winners were, 1st low gross **Bruce Burger** (74), and 2nd low gross **Hugh Kirkpatrick** (74).

Ab Reeve passed away on December 3rd 1984. Ab was a charter member of the CGSA and he retired in November 1982 after 20 years as superintendent at the Whitevale Golf Club. After retiring he worked at the Seaton Golf Club until his death.

The Georgian Bay Superintendents Association was in full swing with tournaments at Brooklea, **Neil Acton**, Midland, **Alex LaBelle**, Royal Downs, **Stew Picken**, Barrie, **Ed Doda**, Blue Mountain, **Kim Hanley** and Borden, **Ray Richards**. **Ray Richards** was the president and **Alex LaBelle** was the secretary.

The Superintendent/Pro Tournament was held at the Aurora Highlands hosted by **Paul Dodson** on July 3rd. Low gross team was **John Davis** (pro) and **Steve Miller** (super) with 151.

The OTRF fundraising tournament was held at the National with the \$75.00 entrance fee raising over \$8,000.00. The 11th Annual President, Greenchairman, Superintendent Tournament was held at the Sunningdale Country Club hosted by **Ken Nelson**. The winning team was from Tillsonburg, **Ross Thurston** with a score of 109 pts. **Bob Moote**, **John Arends** and **Whitey Jones** fashioned the golfing attire which would have been worn at the first President, Greenchairman, Superintendent Tournament in 1924. **Aldo Bortolon** was presented with the ODH scholarship from **Al Draper** at the Spring Convocation. **Joe Reed** was the McClumpha Tournament winner at the Glen Eagle Golf Club on October 1st, hosted by **Bill Calhoun**.

The stimp meter, friend or foe, was just introduced to superintendents after being tested by the USGA Green Section. General ranges for putting green speed were determined and published as part of the instruction manual.

Author's Note: At a recent symposium (OTS/94) it was determined that by welding an extra foot onto the stimp meter you could get the same stimp readings without lowering your height of cut and thus not putting your grass under any more stress.

Our Greens Are Putting Greens - Not Landing Areas

by Neil Acton

Article Reprinted from November 1984 Issue of *Green is Beautiful*

One of my 'better members' came into my office the other day and handed me a copy of the July/August issue of the USGA Green Section Record. The first article, written by William G. Buchanan, is entitled "Why Don't The Greens Hold?" If anything had ever been godsent, it had to be this article. I had just received a lecture on not watering my greens sufficiently by one of my 'better players'. You know the type. A 5 handicap who plays to a 15, fluffs the ball up at every opportunity and hits fliers to a green running 10'6". This fellow expects every green to accept his poorly hit shots as if they were hit by the likes of a Tom Watson. No matter to him problems arising from overwatering. Dam the compaction, disease and what ever else we superintendents invented to make our jobs seem complicated. Just stop his blasted Pinnacles 20" from his ball mark (preferably in front).

Well, I now have some ammunition thanks to Mr. Buchanan and the USGA, and for this, I am truly thankful. Had this article appeared in *Green is Beautiful*, the Greenmaster or Golf Course Management, my 'better golfer' and his like would most surely dismiss it as superintendent propaganda. He will now treat the information as gospel and expound its virtues from tee to tee, as its source is not a superintendent's trade magazine but the prestigious USGA. I am not above accepting charity.

The article is too lengthy to repeat in its entirety but I will directly quote the summation offered at the end of his paper.

1. Putting greens can be constructed to grow grass that is best for putting.
2. Not all putting greens are created equal; some may be firmer than others.
3. Depending on maintenance practices, some greens will putt faster than others.
4. The coefficient of restitution is a measure of how much a ball will bounce on a green, but not a good factor in determining if the green will hold.
5. Backspin on a ball will make it stop quickly, generally on the third bounce.

6. Golf balls make a difference in the amount of spin a play can impart on the ball. Two-piece balls spin slower than surlyn covered balls.
7. Close, frequent mowings on fairways and tees will help the putting greens hold.
8. Hardness testers for greens will not solve the problem. They only give us more numbers to use (has the Stimpmeter made putts for anyone?)

In conclusion, all aspects of golf must be considered with any problem relating to the golf course. Large numbers of golfers have been raised on soft putting greens. They have not played on firm putting surfaces. Golf courses of the future will be forced into conserving water, and the game will be better for it.

Players who have not played under firm conditions are in for a treat, once they learn to allow for the roll. In golf, the player should adjust his game to course conditions. The superintendent is employed to maintain the grass so it will best suit the play of the game. It is both unfair and unreasonable for the golfer to expect the superintendent to adjust the golf course to each individual's game. The handicap system should be used to equalize skill, and the golf course should provide the test. Richard S. Tufts, a former USGA President, said "Play the ball as it lies and play the course as you find it." We need more of this philosophy.

Golf courses hire superintendents to maintain a putting green or a landing area. Since the Rules of Golf do not define a landing area, but they do define a putting green, my vote goes for the putting green. Therefore, when asked, "why don't the greens hold?" we might tell them they are "putting greens", not "landing areas".

I know that this is an issue that is forever being debated amongst golfers and superintendents alike. I personally agree with the statements made in the article and I have been reasonably successful in swaying my members and guests to this way of thinking. This article has made the task somewhat easier and I suggest anyone wanting to read the entire article should contact the USGA at the following address. USGA Green Section, Golf House, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931. Subscriptions are \$6/year US funds for six issues.



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